

The background of the cover features a green wall with a bamboo slat system. A vertical slat runs down the center, with a horizontal slat at the top. A textured, woven green panel is visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on the left side of the wall.

Carbon Reduction Plan

2022-2023

Commitment to Net Zero

SARAH WIGGLESWORTH ARCHITECTS LTD. IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2030.

Sarah Wigglesworth Architects (SWA) is an award-winning architecture practice dedicated to pursuing excellence and integrity in sustainable design. SWA's approach is a holistic environmental position that aims to reconcile material & technical sustainability with social value.

Presenting unparalleled credentials in delivering sustainable environments, all members of staff apply rigorous environmental assessment to their work in terms of design, specification and construction.

Our commitment to sustainability underpins our company ethos. SWA is a member of the Association of Environment Conscious Builders and Architects Declare.

SWA believe that good design in all its aspects can foster social wellbeing and sustainable communities. We make every project green, advocating passive techniques and designing for maximum social, economic and environmental value.

We are committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance and we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate to the UK Government and to our clients our commitment to managing our own journey towards net zero by 2030.

Baseline Emissions Reporting

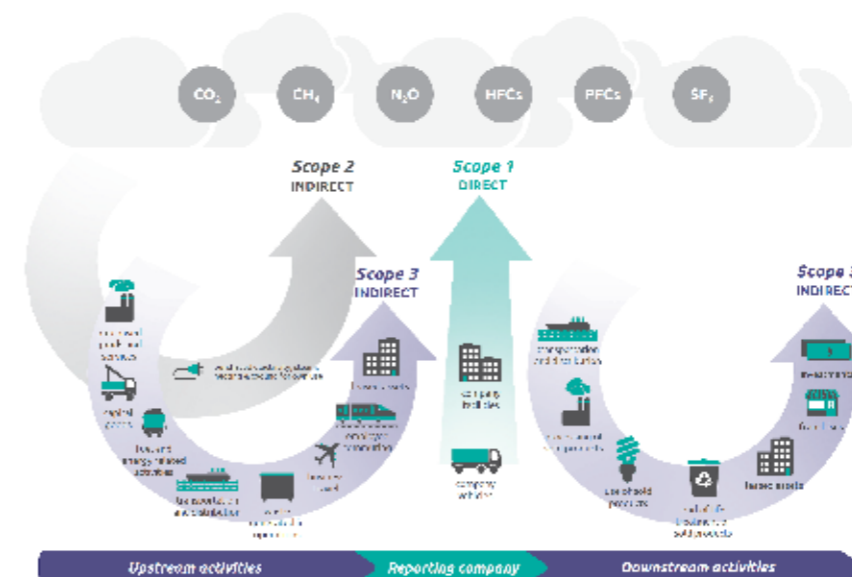
METHODOLOGY

This Carbon Footprint Appraisal and Reduction Plan has been prepared inhouse.

The reporting year of July 2022 - June 2023 is SWA's initial reporting year and this will be the baseline year for all reporting to be compared against.

GHG emissions are reported in terms of metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). GHG emissions are calculated using the 2023 spreadsheet (ghg-conversion-factors-2023-condensed-set-update.xlsx) available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2023>

An Intensity Ratio of tCO₂e/person has been chosen to give a representative GHG figure for comparison over the following reporting years, to allow for fluctuations in staff turnover. In this period, a normalising factor of 9 staff numbers has been used for all office emissions, and 6 for homeworking.



Source: Corporate-Value-Chain-Accounting-Reporting-Standard.pdf

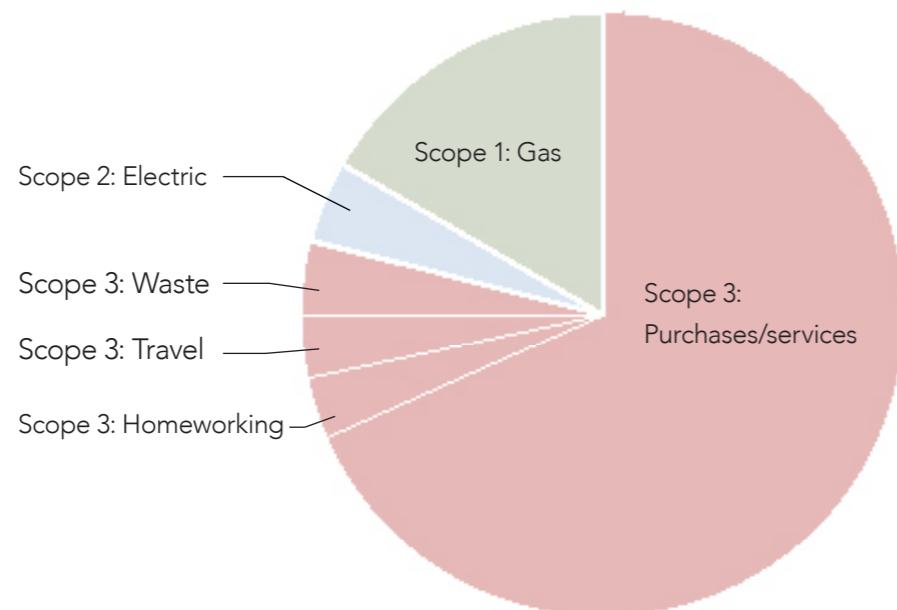
SWA Carbon Footprint Assessment

Reporting Year: July 2022 - June 2023

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO2e)	TOTAL (tCO2e/person)
Scope 1 (Mains Natural Gas)	3.519	0.3910
Scope 2 Electricity (Ecotricity 100% Renewable)*	0.9	0.105
Scope 3		
Water Supply	0.010	0.0011
Water Treatment	0.012	0.0012
Waste generated	0.825	0.092
Purchased Goods**	14.42	1.6
Employee Commuting	0.297	0.050
Business Travel	0.166	0.028
Home Working (gas/electric)	0.460	0.077
TOTAL EMISSIONS	20.61	2.34

* (DEFRA 2023 figures for UK Electricity, with 25% reduction (as advised by <https://www.carbonindependent.org/16.html>) for being from '100% Renewable Sources')

** Calculated as a spend-based carbon accounting estimate, based on conversion factors of kgCO2e/ £ spent, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uks-carbon-footprint>



Carbon Reduction Initiatives

INITIATIVES TAKEN TO REDUCE CARBON TO DATE:

R20 - building fabric retrofit:

In 2017 we appointed Enhabit, an environmental consultancy, to undertake a thorough assessment of how the building was performing in terms of fabric efficiency and energy demand. This enabled us to benchmark the resulting data against current energy standards. The assessment methods included thermal imaging, airtightness tests, measuring u-values of the building fabric, analysis of energy demand using Passivhaus software, as well as monitoring energy bill data.

This research highlighted key elements of the building fabric that could be improved. The R20 project focused on the items that will have a significant impact on reducing energy consumption of the building and enhancing user comfort. These included:

- Improving airtightness
- Reducing thermal bridging
- Improving ventilation
- Improving solar control.

Collectively, uncontrolled air infiltration has been substantially reduced. The insulation levels of the south-west elevation, the first floor soffit and the tower have been improved so that CO2 emissions have been reduced by 62%.*

*Figure relates to works undertaken across both Sarah's house and the office combined.

INITIATIVES PROPOSED TO FURTHER REDUCE OUR CARBON OUTPUT:

SCOPE 1+2 EMISSIONS:

- Review potential for PIR presence detection, and LED replacement light fittings for existing fluorescent lights.
- Explore options to rent out mezzanine floor to another architect's practice to share resources.

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS:

Purchases:

Update our office policy to become paperless. We will aim to reduce printing use within the office to reduce emissions from purchasing printing ink and paper.

Travel:

Update our office policy to reduce our carbon emissions from project-related travel. Our Ts+Cs reflect our policy to hold regular meetings remotely on Teams whenever possible. Staff are encouraged to host in-person meetings at our office, particularly when multiple members of staff are required to attend.

Waste:

Monitor waste and recycling using a regular waste audit for accurate data, and reduce unnecessary food waste and food waste packaging.

Homeworking:

- Continue to support hybrid working: and encourage staff to prioritise office working in winter and home working in summer to share resources most effectively.
- Build awareness amongst our workforce of the impact of their decisions on our journey to net zero.
- Encourage pledges by staff on personal actions to reduce impact while working out of the office (eg waste reduction).

RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge:

By delivering sustainable designs and advice that consider energy consumption, embodied carbon, and circular economy, we can have an outsized impact on reducing, avoiding or mitigating client emissions.

To further our commitment to net zero, SWA will make changes to our internal design review / quality monitoring process to follow the principles of the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge, to reduce carbon emissions from our designed projects. We will advocate for all clients to commit to meeting targets for operation energy, embodied carbon, water use, and health and wellbeing metrics.

Declaration

DECLARATION AND SIGN OFF

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the directors (Sarah Wigglesworth and Eleanor Brough).

Signed on behalf of Sarah Wigglesworth Architects Ltd:



Sarah Wigglesworth

Date: 18th September 2023

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